

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 00454 131801Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9664

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 0454

EXDIS

FOR SHLAUDEMAN

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP MX (MRS. LOPEZ PORTILLO)
SUBJECT: VISIT OF MRS. LOPEZ PORTILLO

1. I SAW FOREIGN MININSTER ROEL AT HIS HOME YESTERDAY AFTERNOON FOR AN EXTENDED CONVERSATION. WE COVERED THE CURRENT PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR MRS. LOPEZ PORTILLO AND HE WAS GRATIFIED AT THE WAY IT HAS TAKEN SHAPE. SHE WILL DEFINITELY PLAN TO ARRIVE IN TIME FOR MRS. KISSINGER'S TEA.

2. ROEL SAID THAT HIS MAIN OCCUPATION NOW WAS FORWARD PLANNING FOR PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S OWN TRIP TO WASHINGTON WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD HAD BEEN SET IN A CONVERSATION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MARGAIN AND SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE FOR FEB. 14. HE HOPED THIS VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON AND THAT IT WOULD TRULY BE A STATE VISIT WHICH WOULD INCOUDE AN ADDRESS TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS AS WELL AS TO THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL.

3. GRATIFIED AS HE WAS AT THE PROSPECT OF THIS TRIP, BOTH HE AND THE PRESIDENT WERE DISTRESSED THAT THERE HAD BEEN BOTH LEAKS AND OPEN REFERENCES TO PROPOSED
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TRIP ON PART OF WASHINGTON. THIS COULD LEAD TO CRITICISM FROM MEXICAN LEFT THAT LOPEZ PORTILLO WAS "BEING TAKEN FOR GRANTED" AND MANIPULATED. WHILE, OF COURSE, THIS WAS NOT TRUE, HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE NO MORE LEAKS ON THE MATTER UNTIL OFFICIAL INVITATION WAS ACTUALLY MADE, ACCEPTED BY THE MEXICANS (WHICH, OF COURSE, IT WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY), AND A FORMAL

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE. AN IDEAL TIME FOR ANNOUNCEMENT
WOULD BE DURING VISIT OF MRS. LOPEZ PORTILLO.

4. RETURNING TO VISIT OF MRS. LOPEZ PORTILLO, HE
REFERRED TO HER PROPOSED DINNER PARTY AND THE HIGH
LEVEL GUESTS WHICH HE HOPED TO INVITE. I TOLD HIM
AGAIN THAT THE MATTER OF THE INVITATIONS WAS SOMETHING
BEST HANDLED BY MARGAIN IN WASHINGTON AND STRESSED
HOW VERY BUSY EVERYONE MUST BE DURING THIS PERIOD.
I ALSO FLOATED THE THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE
NOT TO TRY TO OVERSHADOW AT THIS TIME THE IMPENDING
VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF.
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